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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP**  
**INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

COUNTRY Egypt

SUBJECT Declining Fortunes of the Wafdist Party

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Wafering Wafdist Policies

1. The confusion surrounding the trend of recent Wafdist policies overshadows the hopes of the Wafdist to appear on the political scene if the negotiations fail. In anticipation of the failure of the negotiations, Mustafa al-Nahhas Pasha and the other Wafdist leaders had struck an optimistic note on the forthcoming role of the Party at a meeting of Wafdist leaders held on 15 August at the home of its President in Alexandria. Thereafter, the Wafdist hopefully waited for the final disruption of the negotiations, leading to a new era in Wafdist government.
2. Such were the Wafdist considerations that prompted Nahhas Pasha to deliver messages to the nation on 28 August, on the occasion of Egyptian Independence Day and again on Bairam holiday, omitting on both counts any reference to King Farouq or to his throne.
3. This oversight of respect due the King on the part of Nahhas did not pass unnoticed, as the Wafdist Leader was severely criticized by Sharif Sabri, uncle to the King, and Ali al-Shamsi for flagrantly ignoring the Throne. Misgivings on the deteriorating position of the Wafdist must have entered into Wafdist calculations, when suddenly Nahhas appeared at Res al-Tin Palace on Bairam holiday to add his name to the roster of prominent visitors. This was the first time that Nahhas has entered Res al-Tin Palace since he was ejected from the government in October 1944.
4. To emphasize his bid for reconciliation with the Palace, Nahhas paid homage to the wisdom of King Farouq in a post-Bairam message, thanking the nation for congratulating His Majesty on the occasion of the holiday.

Wafdist Bid for British and Palace Support Fails

5. The British have apparently recognized the advantages of encouraging Nahhas and have maintained friendly relations with the Party chief, without, however, acceding to Wafdist demands for its unconditional support. This bargaining point with the Wafdist is still exploited by the British in a threat to dissuade King Farouq and Ismail Sidqi from offering any serious opposition to British demands. It has also proved to be a factor in Farouq's determination to compromise with the British in the negotiations.

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11. Shortly thereafter, however, Isma'il Sidqi established friendly relations with Isma'il al-Azhari, President of the Sudanese delegation, gradually winning the Sudanese leader to his side. On 3 September Sidqi consulted al-Azhari on a project for the Sudan which he submitted to the Egyptian delegation the same day for their approval. When the feeling of mutual trust between the two men was sufficiently developed, Sidqi began offering presents and varying sums of money from secret government funds to al-Azhari "in recognition of his devotion to the welfare of the Sudan."
12. On 5 September Sidqi prepared a public statement outlining Egypt's stand in respect to the Sudan question, defining the authority of the Egyptian Crown over the Sudan. This document, which was approved word for word by al-Azhari prior to its publication in the press, appeared in the September issue of al-Ahram. Lord Stansgate was reported favorably impressed that Sidqi was able to exert influence on al-Azhari, which would help simplify the solution of the Sudan problem.
13. Later Sidqi assigned Abd-al-Qawi Ahmed, Public Works Minister, who is a specialist on Sudanese affairs by virtue of his long service in the Sudan, to insure the continued loyalty of al-Azhari to Sidqi. Today, al-Azhari is completely dominated by the dictates of the Prime Minister, as attested to by a note he submitted to Sidqi, which was published in the press on 22 September, demonstrating a unanimity of opinion between them on the Sudan question.

## Sidqi Accuses Wafid of Communist Collaboration

14. That the British are following with interest the recent campaign against communism was demonstrated when Lord Stansgate congratulated Sidqi for the determined action of the government to stamp out harmful teachings in Egypt. Thereupon, the Prime Minister accused the Wafid of collaborating with the communists in an effort to discredit the Party further in the eyes of the British. Lord Stansgate was inclined to exonerate the Wafid of any complicity in the communist case, but promised, nevertheless, to forward to London a detailed report prepared by the Security Department, indicating the extent of Wafidist collaboration with the communists.
15. The suspension of Wafd al-Masri and al-Baileet, daily Wafidist papers, on the ground of communist affiliation, was greeted with opposition by many Party leaders of the Sa'abis and the Liberals. Sabri Abu Alem, Wafidist opposition leader, made an interpellation in the Senate, questioning the authority of the Prime Minister on the summary closing of the papers, pointing out that the Egyptian Constitution guarantees full freedom of the press.
16. Husayn Haykal (Liberal-Constitutional) supported Sabri Abu Alem, dismissing accusations of communist activities by the Wafid. Many senators agreed with Haykal, and a crisis developed which was settled with the granting of permission for the publication of the Wafidist Sant al-Jumhuri (Nation's Voice), in place of the defunct Wafd al-Masri. This publication, however, followed on the footsteps of its predecessor, leading to the arrest of its chief editor, Maitre Hafiz Shihab, on the grounds of writing articles defamatory to the government. Shihab was finally released on 22 September on U.E. 200 bail.

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6. Although the Wafd has failed to obtain its objective, it has not relaxed its solicitation for British support. The most recent Wafdist efforts in this direction are traced to contacts between Abd-al-Salam Fahmi Gomaa and Fahmi Wisa, Alexandria Wafd leaders, with Colonel Curran of Lord Stansgate's staff. Meanwhile, Ali al-Shemsi, member of the Negotiations Delegation, and Wahid Husni have in vain attempted to prevail upon their British friends in England to induce the British Government to refuse to sign a treaty with the present Egyptian Government. The Wafdist argument, although weakened by the inclusion of the Sa'dists in the Cabinet, still revolves around the theory that the Sidqi government is not representative of the nation; consequently, new elections must be undertaken before a treaty with the British can be signed.
7. Meanwhile, King Faruq, aware of the adverse implications of a British sanction of the Wafd, has frantically worked for a swift conclusion of the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations, to dash with finality Wafdist ambitions of coming back to power at the head of the Egyptian Government. Faruq dreads the alternative of seeing Nahhas sign a treaty, although no one takes seriously into consideration Wafdist threats for the establishment of an Egyptian Republic, with Nahhas/<sup>as</sup> President. Nevertheless, the publicity gained by this propaganda holds enough appeal for a cross-section of the Egyptian public to make King Faruq feel apprehensive for the future of his throne.

Wafd Reaction to Setbacks

8. The Wafd, finding itself in continued isolation in spite of its efforts to effect peace with the Palace or to conclude an agreement with the anti-British, has reverted to its policy of conducting an anti-British, anti-government campaign, in recognition of the probable successful conclusion of the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations.
9. Therefore, the Wafd has once again instructed the Wafdist press to attack the British policies and criticize the government, a measure which led to the arrest of Maitre Hafiz Shihab, editor-in-chief of Saint al-Umma (Nation's Voice), on the grounds that it printed articles defamatory to the government. This paper is the successor to Wafd al-Masri, which was recently suspended in connection with the anti-communist campaign of the government.

Wafd Loses Support of Sudanese Delegation

10. Determined efforts were made by the Wafd to win the support of the Sudanese delegates presently in Egypt. As early as 9 August, Abd-al-Fattah al-Tawil, Alexandria Wafd leader, entertained the Sudanese delegates at a reception at the Muzha Casino, on behalf of Nahhas. Also present at this celebration were Dr. Abd-al-Muti al-Dhayyal, Ramzi Sayy, Muhsin Shafiq, and Mahmud Mustafa, communist-inclined teachers of the Faculty of Law at Faruq I University, who later became involved in disturbances at the Faculty.

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